

February 28, 2019

Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco  
Environment Committee, Co-Chairs  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Proposed House Bill No. 6637 – AN ACT REQUIRING AN INVASIVE SPECIES  
STAMP FOR THE OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT ON THE INLAND WATERS OF  
THE STATE**

Dear Senator Cohen and Representative Demicco,

I would like to express my support for the passage of H.B. 6637 and the substitute language the Connecticut Federation of Lakes has provided.

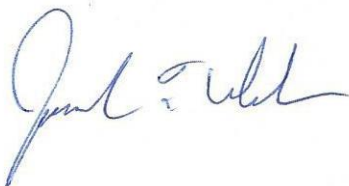
Invasive aquatic species are a huge problem which threatens fishing, swimming, and boating on many of the lakes that I visit with my family. Often these species are unintentionally spread by the folks drawn to the beauty of the area and outdoor experiences that our ponds, lakes, and rivers have to offer.

The science based studies and research conducted by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, Connecticut Agriculture Experimental Station, and other experts show that once you begin managing invasive species a continued and ongoing commitment will result in lasting improvements. I have been part of this effort on Dog Pond in Goshen where town funding and financial contributions from residents allowed for the development and implementation of management plan for Eurasian watermilfoil. If successful our continued efforts will improve the water quality, recreational value, pond ecosystem, and habitat.

A dedicated funding stream to help will improve the pace of our control efforts ultimately improving the quality of the state's water bodies. Most likely the State of Connecticut will benefit too from the revenues collected from the folks visiting and supporting the local economies in these areas.

Please vote YES to support this legislation; it is essential in protecting the quality of our lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Welsh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph T. Welsh  
Goshen/Shelton